

The invention claimed is:

1 1. A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps
2 of:
3 sending a message blocking request from a first network component to a second network
4 component, the message blocking request identifying a third network component; and
5 preventing messages from being communicated from the third network component to the
6 first network component.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the second
2 network component.

sub A 2 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending a message blocking
2 command to the third network component.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the third
2 network component.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies a duration of a
2 blocking period.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies at least one
2 acceptance interval during a blocking period, the acceptance interval being a period during which
3 at least one message may be communicated from the third network component to the first
4 network component.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the message blocking request specifies an action to be
2 taken by the third network element instead of communicating a message from the third network
3 component to the first network component.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the second network component may modify the action
2 specified in the message blocking request.

1 9. A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps

2 of:

3 sending a message blocking request from a first MSC to a SCF, the message blocking

4 request identifying a second MSC, and

5 preventing messages from being communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the SCF.

1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of sending a message blocking

2 command to the second MSC.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the second

2 MSC.

1 13. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies a duration of

2 a blocking period.

1 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies at least one

2 acceptance interval during a blocking period, the acceptance interval being a period during which

3 at least one message may be communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

1 15. The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies an action to

2 be taken by the third network element instead of communicating a message from the second MSC

3 to the first MSC.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the SCF may modify the action specified in the

2 message blocking request.